



## Geographers and Scientists

Examine the geography and science of Rapa Nui (Easter Island)

### 14. *The Toromiro tree – extinct in the wild*

*Requirements: internet access for research; writing and drawing materials*

*Working style: individually, in pairs*

*Curriculum: Science (living organisms; plants; extinction; collecting); English; Art; History*

*Time: 20 minutes*

*The Toromiro tree grew only on Rapa Nui (nowhere else in the world) but is now classified as '**Extinct in the Wild**' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The last tree known on the Island grew in the shelter of a volcanic crater, and disappeared in the 1960s. Before this time, scientific plant collectors had taken seeds from the tree for planting in their home gardens. Today, Toromiro only survives in public and private botanic gardens around the world.*

*Investigate the stories of these seeds in **Kew (London)** and **Gothenburg (Sweden)** using the links provided; write a short story/ create a drawing about the journey of these seeds from Rapa Nui to their European home.*